

For Immediate Release

Contact: Erica Daughtrey

October 27, 2010

201-222-2828

Washington, D.C.-- On October 27, 2010, Congressman Sires released the following statement in response to New Jersey Governor Chris Christie's decision to shut down the Access to the Region's Core (ARC) project, the nation's largest transportation infrastructure project currently underway:

"I am greatly disappointed by Governor Christie's decision to kill the ARC rail tunnel project. His final decision is shortsighted and ignores numerous economic benefits the project would have brought to the people of New Jersey. The ARC project would have created thousands of construction jobs and 45, 000 permanent jobs, and invested in a transit system that would have boosted access to economic opportunity in New York City. With New Jersey's unemployment rate high, the jobs this project would have created are exactly what our region needs.

"By shutting down the ARC tunnel, New Jersey will be walking away from \$3 billion in federal funding that cannot be used anywhere else in our state. Governor Christie's decision to terminate this project will put New Jersey at a significant disadvantage in the long term. As a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I remain committed to this important project and will continue to support the ARC tunnel at the federal level. I also urge Governor Christie to continue discussions with the Department of Transportation, Port Authority of NY/NJ and NJ Transit until the best cost effective solutions are found and will allow the largest mass transit project in the nation to move forward."

###